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Report of the Government of Idaho, 1880

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REPORT

OF

THE GOVERNOR OF IDAHO.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE, IDAHO TERRITORY,
Boise City, October 6, 1880.

SIR: In compliance with your request of August 16th last, I have the honor to submit, herewith, a report of the condition of affairs and of the progress and development, in so far as that is possible, of the Territory of Idaho for the year ending June 30, 1880.

Owing to the fact that I have only recently entered upon the duties of the governorship, the task of preparing this report has been an exceedingly difficult and embarrassing one. There is no record showing the *status* of affairs, especially as respects the progress and development up to the year ending June 30, 1879. Consequently the advance made during the past year could, at least, only be estimated. Moreover there is no bureau or other method provided for the collection of statistics of the resources, industries, products, &c., of the Territory; nor is there any provision of law requiring local officers to respond when called upon by the governor, to furnish information relative to such matters. Under these circumstances it has not been possible to obtain complete and reliable information upon all the points about which inquiry is made.

In view of these facts I deem it best to make no attempt to show the exact progress and development of a year, but, instead, give the present condition of affairs in the Territory, with as full a statement of its resources, industries, and products, as it has been possible to obtain in the brief time I have had for the purpose.

GEOGRAPHICAL DESCRIPTION.

Idaho Territory, sometimes called "Gem of the Mountains," lies to the north of Utah and Nevada, which form its southern boundary. It extends to the north over 400 miles to the British possessions, which, at the 46th parallel, form its northern boundary. On the east it is bounded by Montana and Wyoming, and on the west by Oregon and Washington, the wonderful Snake River forming, for a distance of 50 miles, the dividing line.

AREA.

In area it comprises more than 86,000 square miles, or over 55,000,000 acres. These lands have usually been described as agricultural, desert, mineral, and timber lands, but the exact quantity of each kind can only be approximated. The best estimates classify these lands as follows:

Suitable for agriculture in their present state, 12,000,000 to 15,000,000 of acres; capable of being reclaimed by irrigation, 10,000,000 to 12,000,000

of acres; pasturage or grazing lands, 5,000,000 of acres (although much of the land described as agricultural is suitable and is, in fact, used for grazing); timber lands, 10,000,000 of acres; mineral lands, 8,000,000 of acres. There is at least 5,000,000 of acres, mostly arid desert, or volcanic formation, unfit for any use, being destitute of mineral, timber, or vegetation of any kind whatever.

CLIMATE.

In the valleys and agricultural portions of the Territory the climate may justly be designated as salubrious. The equable temperature and cool nights, the bright winter and summer skies, so common to the Rocky Mountain regions, prevail and reach perfection in Idaho. In the high mountain altitudes the winters are long and severe, but the pure, dry atmosphere renders it possible to endure them without discomfort or suffering.

SOIL.

The soil of the mountain regions is generally sandy and rocky; that of the lower hills and slopes, composed of decomposed granite and sandstone, produces good crops of natural grasses, and affords fine ranges for grazing purposes. The soil of the table lands is similar, with here and there rich loam intermixed, from which good crops are produced. The soil of the valleys is generally a sandy loam, rich and mellow, well adapted to the growth of all kinds of grain, fruit, and vegetables.

RIVERS, SCENERY, ETC.

Though one of the largest and most interesting of the Territories, Idaho is probably the least known. It abounds in swift, noble rivers, beautiful, placid lakes, grand scenery, and fertile valleys, while its rugged mountain ranges are filled with the precious metals—an Eldorado indeed!

The principal rivers are the Snake, Salmon, Boise, Clearwater, Kootenai, Bear, Malad, Raft, Payette, and Weiser, all clear, strong streams, grand currents, worthy of their mountain sources. These streams, and all others in the Territory, are well stocked with the most palatable food fishes—trout, salmon, white, and numerous other species. To the tourist, the pleasureseeker, the scientist, and the sportsman, the Territory presents distinctive and attractive features not excelled elsewhere on the continent. It is not possible to mention even the chief points of interest, but it may not be amiss to note the fact that Idaho has one of the greatest cataracts in the world, the great Shoshone Falls of Snake River, equal in height and volume of water to Niagara, and far exceeding it in beauty and grandeur of natural scenery.

Wild game of all kinds is abundant, and the sportsman cannot fail to find, in the way of the pleasures of the chase, or the exercise of the angler's art, all that the most exacting disposition could demand. The invalid will find the waters of the numerous mineral springs very beneficial and invigorating. Here the scientist can study the most wonderful of nature's phenomena, and speculate to his heart's content.

AGRICULTURE AND FRUIT.

The number of people engaged in the pursuit of agriculture is unknown to me, but I think it entirely safe to state that at least one-third of the population are farmers and ranchers. The past year has been a

remunerative one for this interest; good crops have been raised, and high prices generally obtained therefor. As before stated, not to exceed 15,000,000 acres of the total area of the Territory are suitable for agriculture in their natural state.

The principal agricultural settlements are in the counties of Ada, Cassia, Bear Lake, Nes Percé, Oneida, and Washington, though every county contains fertile lands, small valleys, where there are families and settlements engaged in agriculture.

In the northwestern counties adjoining Washington the rainfall during the growing season is usually sufficient to insure good crops, and artificial irrigation is seldom resorted to. Elsewhere in the Territory crops can be raised in that way alone. Where the supply of water for irrigating is abundant, the soil produces excellent crops of all kinds of grain and vegetables. It is no exaggeration to state that, with the one exception of corn, a better quality of grain cannot anywhere be produced. Wheat yields readily an average of 40 bushels to the acre, and in Western Idaho 65 to 70 bushels is not infrequently the average. Oats average 60 to 70 bushels to the acre, and barley 30 to 40. Hay of good quality, timothy and clover, is grown. Vegetables are of excellent quality, and large in size.

Fruit trees and vines grow very rapidly and produce prolifically. Idaho apples, pears, peaches, grapes, nectarines, apricots, and berries are justly celebrated for their superior size and luscious quality.

I greatly regret that it has not been possible to obtain a statement showing the products of the soil during the past year, and the value thereof, as I feel satisfied the exhibit would prove gratifying to all persons interested in the welfare and prosperity of the Territory. That this interest is larger than ever before, and that it will continue to increase rapidly, there can be no doubt, now that experience has demonstrated beyond controversy the adaptability of climate and soil to the purposes of agriculture. It is not long since the opposite view very generally prevailed.

Those who wish to avail themselves of the pre-emption or homestead laws, to secure homes on the public domain, can find vacant tracts in almost any of the desirable valleys.

In the Boise City land district the land taken up under the different laws for the disposal of the public lands and upon which final proof has been made amounts to 92,081 acres. The lands upon which claims have been initiated under said laws, about 400,000 acres.

This statement does not include settlements upon unsurveyed lands, but granting that the amount of such lands settled upon is equal to or greater than the amount shown in the above statement, it will be seen that but comparatively a small portion of the government lands in Idaho has been settled upon or disposed of.

There are large tracts of unoccupied government lands within the Boise City district quite as good as any that have been disposed of. Big Camas Prairie, containing over 100,000 acres, particularly well adapted to wheat-growing, would be a desirable locality for the settlement of large colonies. The valleys of Wood River also present admirable advantages for such settlements. Twenty-five hundred families could find good homes in these two localities. Their nearness to what bids fair to be the greatest mining district of the West, would insure a good market, where ready sale, at high prices, would be found for all the products of the soil.

Little Salmon Meadows, Indian and Long Valleys, in the northern portion of the Territory, will afford good homes for at least two thousand

families, while on the Weiser and Payette Rivers there are still large bodies of unoccupied land of an excellent quality.

In the Oxford land district about 85,000 acres were entered and disposed of from September 1, 1879, to June 30, 1880. The whole number of acres entered and disposed of in the district since the organization of the Territory is 342,178.

The building of the Utah and Northern Railroad through Eastern Idaho has been a great benefit to that portion of the Territory. The population has increased rapidly, and thriving, enterprising towns have grown up where but a short time since silence and desolation reigned supreme.

The line of the government surveys should be extended over the lands in Lemhi and Lost River Valleys. There are large settlements in those valleys (in many instances on unsurveyed land) with farms well fenced, the land under a good state of cultivation, and with good substantial houses for residences. Settlement is greatly retarded in many places by the failure to survey the land, as no one desires to settle upon and improve land for which he cannot at once initiate a claim under the pre-emption or homestead laws. I would suggest that the appropriations for the survey of government lands in the Territory should be largely increased. The policy, so often resorted to of late, of making settlers in an unsurveyed locality contribute the amounts necessary to have their claims surveyed is small business for a great nation like ours to engage in. There should never be necessity for such expedients. The public domain should be surveyed as rapidly as possible, so that settlers may initiate their claims immediately upon settling thereon. The policy of making small annual appropriations, sufficient usually for the survey of about one township in a district, is not economy.

STOCK-RAISING AND GRAZING.

This is one of the most considerable interests in the Territory. Experience has demonstrated its advantages as a grazing region, and the number of persons engaged in the business of stock-raising and grazing is very large. Here, again, the absence of statistics makes it impossible to do full justice to the subject.

The ranches are large, well watered, and covered with "bunch" and other nutritious grasses, indigenous to the soil. Stock men have devoted themselves to the raising of cattle; wool-growing having received but little attention, as yet, though the climate and soil are admirably adapted to that purpose. During the summer months cattle, sheep, and horses range on the foot-hills and lower mountain slopes. In the winter they are driven to the ranges in the valleys, where the temperature is mild and snow seldom, if ever, falls. Provision is, however, always made to meet exceptional winters, which occur not oftener than once in five years. For these, hay is cut from the natural meadows and stored upon the ranches. An excellent quality of beef is raised without resorting to stall-feeding or the use of prepared food. While it is impossible to give the number and value of the stock raised and owned in the Territory, good judges estimate that not less than 40,000 head of Idaho cattle have been sold and driven from the Territory to Wyoming and other points east and west during the past season. This estimate is probably under rather than above the exact number sold. The value of this stock would exceed \$500,000.

MINES AND MINING.

The mineral resources of the Territory constitute its chief interest, the one upon which all other interests are largely dependent. It is to the discovery of gold and silver on the Pen d'Oreille in the year 1852, and subsequent rich discoveries elsewhere of the precious metals, that we are indebted for the organization of the Territory, which was formed in 1862, with its present boundaries.

The occupation in those days of a large portion of the Territory by hostile Indians rendered prospecting a dangerous undertaking, and prevented any very general exploration of the country. Many of the mines first discovered were soon worked out, and a large portion of the mining population, unable to prospect with safety in Idaho, left the Territory to seek in other and more recently discovered mineral regions the fortunes they had failed to find in this. From these causes combined the mining interests of the Territory received a severe check, and the development of its mineral resources was greatly retarded. But prospecting and exploration did not cease entirely, and though development has been slow, it has been, nevertheless, certain. New and important discoveries of mineral ledges and placer deposits have been made from time to time until now there is scarcely a county or section in the Territory that does not contain one or more mining camps or towns.

Of recent discoveries perhaps the most important are those known as the Salmon River and the Wood River districts—the former in Lemhi County, and the latter in Alturas County.

The latter is the banner county in the way of new discoveries, and although in neither the Saw Tooth or Wood River districts have the lodes been explored to great depth, enough has been accomplished to show the existence of a mineral belt 55 miles in length and 10 miles in width, carrying large quantities of the finest ores. Both mining experts and practical miners agree that all the indications are favorable to the view that the lodes go to "the deep," and that the development already made is sufficient to assure their permanency. North of what is known as the Wood River Divide the lodes contain silver ores, principally native, ruby, brittle and sulphurets of silver. South of the divide the veins are large and fine, with silver bearing galena, carbonate, sulphate, molybdate, antimonate, arsenate, and chloride of lead, and grey copper ores. With the advent of next spring it is believed stamp-mills and smelters will be erected for crushing and smelting the ores of these splendid mineral districts. With these and increased facilities for the transportation of the ore and bullion produced, and the bringing in of needed supplies of all kinds, the bullion production of the Wood River region is likely to equal that of all other districts of the Territory. Of the noted claims in this region, mention may properly be made of the Bullion, Ophir, May Queen, and Evergreen in Mineral Hill, all the property of the Wood River Gold and Silver Mining Co. In the lower Wood River County there are two camps, known as Jacob's and Callahan's. Many locations have been made in these districts upon which considerable work has been done. Shipments of ore have been made to Salt Lake City which average from \$150 to \$200 per ton. The ores are galena, easily smelted, carrying from 40 to 60 per cent. lead and \$80 to \$250 in silver.

In the Warm Springs Creek district several good mines have been discovered. The "Idaho," located in 1879, contains a large body of antimonial silver, assaying \$80 to \$200 per ton. Adjoining the Idaho is the Wood River mine, in which a good body of ore has been exposed, assaying \$150 per ton. The Black Horse mine contains a good quality

of galena ore. The mines of the Upper Wood River district are similar in character to those of the Middle and Lower Wood River districts. Many locations of great promise have been made. A thriving town called Galena City has sprung up, and everything promises well in the district. The mineral belt in this district seems to be a network of veins, with prominent croppings often traceable for thousands of feet.

Many fine towns have grown up lately in the Wood River country, among the most important of which are Bellevue and Ketchum.

In the Saw Tooth district a large number of valuable claims were located in 1879, and many more have since been discovered and located. The famous Pilgrim mine, recently sold to San Francisco parties at a high price, is located in this district. Of other mines of a prominent character the best known are the Lucky Boy, the select ores from which carry \$10,000 in silver per ton—the Vienna, the Emma, Ruby Lion, Columbia, and Custer.

The Caribou district, situated near the eastern border of Oneida County, was at one time the scene of a great mining excitement. Large placer deposits were discovered, and for a while yielded largely. Placer mining is still followed to some extent, but the wealth of the district lies in its auriferous quartz lodes.

MINES OF THE SALMON RIVER.

The rich discoveries in Bay Horse district, on the Salmon, has extended the reputation of the district far and wide. It is seldom that an ore body is found of the magnitude of that known to exist in the General Custer mine. The development in this mine some months ago was sufficient to expose to view more than three million dollars. That is the estimated value competent experts placed upon the ore then in sight. The Charles Dickens mine, discovered in 1875, is another of the valuable claims in this district. In one month after the mine was discovered the owner pounded from top rock with a hand-mortar \$11,000. In 1878, with an arastra run by water-power, over \$32,000 were taken out of the mine in six weeks. Another of the famous mines of this district is the Montana, which has been self-supporting since its discovery, and for this reason has been styled "the Poor Man's mine." The vein varies from five to fourteen feet in thickness, from which the ore taken averages from \$500 to \$1,700 per ton. The quartz carries gold and horn silver. There are many other valuable mines in this district, among which may be mentioned the following as having a good reputation: The Unknown, Mount Estes, Lucky Boy, Badger, and Charles Wayne. Placer mining is also a large interest in this district, and many valuable claims are being worked with good results. Among the best of this class of claims are those known as the "Morrison" and the "Bray."

There are a number of fine placer claims in the Stanley Basin district, and the annual yield of gold from this district is not less than \$30,000. Deposits of cinnabar have also been found here, the only place where it has been discovered in the district.

Ten miles from Challis City is the Bay Horse district, which is also deserving of special mention, as within its limits every conceivable grade of ore is found, the smelting ore being exceedingly rich. Chief among the mines of this district are the Ramshorn, Beardsley, Hood, Vermont, and Bull of the Woods, all producing handsomely. At Poverty Flat, a portion of this district, are the Silver Bell, Mono, Ella, and the Redemption, the latter being at this time regarded as an exceptionally fine prop-

erty. On the East Fork is the Germania, also a good mine. The placers between East Fork and Yankee Fork, are also yielding handsome returns.

The mines of the Salmon City region produce free gold ore, from which \$15 to \$40 per ton are extracted. The Ranger, Eldorado, California, Freeman, and Shoo Fly, are all good mines, from which ore in paying quantities is being taken. From the placer mines in the Leesburg, Moose Creek, Arnets Creek, Kertley Creek, Gertson Creek, and Bohanan Creek, the annual yield of gold is not less than \$200,000, and judging from present indications are likely to keep up production at this rate for twenty years, or longer.

In the Prairie Basin district, valuable discoveries have been made of very high grade ores, but owing to difficulty of access the district has not produced much ore. This disadvantage will be overcome shortly, and it is believed the district will become a valuable one. The same remarks apply to the Yellow Jacket district, where immense deposits of ore have been found. The North and South America mines situated in this district, are regarded as valuable claims.

The facilities for working and handling the ores of the Salmon country are rapidly increasing. The Omaha smelter in Bay Horse district, recently completed, in a run of two weeks produced from the ores of the district \$60,000 in bullion, and the managers are well satisfied this average can be maintained for an indefinite period.

A smelter erecting at Clayton, in the Kinnikinick district, will be in operation in a few days. Two new stamp-mills are going up in the Yankee Fork district; one sixty-stamp mill at Bonanza City and a ten-stamp mill at Custer City. Two arastras have been in operation in this district during the past year, and by this primitive method over \$100,000 in bullion has been produced.

Fifteen miles from Salmon City is the twenty-stamp mill of the Eldorado and Ranger. On Moose Creek there is a five-stamp mill at work on the ores of the "Shoo Fly" mine; at Gibbonsville a ten-stamp mill and at least ten arastras operating on the gold ores of the North Fork district.

The Yellow Jacket district has a three-stamp mill in operation.

It is estimated that with improved facilities for transportation, sure to be obtained soon, the mineral output of the Salmon country will reach \$500,000 per month, without increasing present facilities for smelting and crushing the ores.

Placer mining is, and has always been, a feature in Idaho. Perhaps the most extensive field for this industry in the future will be the bars of Snake River. Throughout almost its entire length these bars contain vast deposits of what is called "flour gold." It was not until recently that any method had been invented for saving these fine particles. With the process now employed of washing the dirt over silver-plated copper plates, coated with mercury, the fine gold can be saved in paying quantities. The machinery is simple and the bars can be worked on an extensive scale with but slight cost.

In Ada County very little has been done the past year toward developing the mines located in the northern part of the county. Coal beds, and rich deposits of the finest quality of fire and pottery clay, have been discovered, but up to the present time nothing has been done to develop them.

In Boise County some very promising quartz lodes have been discovered within 10 miles of Boise City. The ore will probably mill from \$15 to \$20 per ton, requiring economical working and a first-class mill

of large capacity to leave a margin for profit. The Elmira Company in Banner, and the Gold Hill Company in Quartzburg, have been steadily at work, and both have realized large profits. Placer-mining in this county has again declined, and a large majority of the claims are now only worked successfully by Chinese.

Owyhee has not wholly recovered from the blow received in 1876. A smelter is erecting in South Mountain, which, when completed, will give the poor owners of mines a chance to sell their ore at a profit, and tend to prosperity in the future.

In Atlanta the Buffalo Company has struck the richest ore body ever encountered in their lode, and in Rocky Bar increased activity is also perceptible.

In closing this portion of my report I desire to add that I am satisfied complete justice has not been done to the wonderful mineral resources of the Territory. That there are mineral districts not mentioned in these pages, there is no doubt. That there are better mines in many of the districts than those named herein is quite likely, but I have not been informed respecting them, and have alluded to such only as I have been assured by reliable parties would bear out the statements made respecting their value.

Since the first discovery of gold and silver in Idaho, the Territory has contributed from its mines to the material wealth of the country not less than \$75,000,000.

The output of the mines for the past year may not exceed \$3,000,000. This is not a large increase over last year, but significant in connection with the fact that from 1867 up to last year the production was constantly decreasing.

From present indications the production for next year will equal, if not exceed, any year of the palmy days prior to 1867.

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

There have been no disturbances during the past year with the Indians—no depredations by them, and the people have enjoyed unusual security in pursuing their avocations, even in those portions of the Territory most exposed to danger.

During the Bannock war about thirty of the Sheep Eater and Weiser Indians escaped from the troops, and secreted themselves in the rugged and almost inaccessible mountains of the Salmon River, from whence they raided remote and unprotected settlements, murdering several citizens in the spring of 1879.

General Howard took prompt action to relieve the people from their danger, sending two companies of troops in pursuit of these treacherous savages, and after a long and toilsome chase, lasting all summer, finally succeeded in capturing the band late in the fall of 1879. They were taken to Fort Vancouver, where they still remain. Fearing, however, that some of the band might have escaped their pursuers, a detachment of scouts, with Indian guides, under command of Lieut. Farrow, was sent out during the past summer to scour the Salmon Mountains. All the old hiding places were visited, and after a thorough and vigilant search Lieut. Farrow's command has returned without having seen any hostile Indians. The fact that no settlers have been murdered or depredations committed during the past year is regarded as conclusive evidence that all of the cruel and murderous Sheep Eaters were captured last year. It is to be hoped they will be kept where they can do no further harm.

The Salmon county has long been known to be rich in precious metals,

but the hostile character of the Indians who infested that region for years, kept the prospectors out. The past summer, the Salmon Mountains have been filled with prospectors, who have pursued their explorations without fear of molestation. The capture of the Indians, and their detention elsewhere, has given security to the miner and prospector, and the result has been the opening up of one of the richest mineral portions of the Territory.

The Nez Percé and Bannock wars created so much distrust and hostility toward the Indians, that the reservation Indians, either from fear or a disposition to observe more sacredly treaty obligations, have remained upon their reservations.

So long as the Indians are permitted to maintain tribal relations, and reservations are set apart for their exclusive use and benefit, they should be confined more closely and strictly to the reservations. Large parties of these Indians roam over the Territory almost incessantly, hunting, fishing, and begging. The appearance of these parties in remote and isolated settlements of the Territory, creates an uneasy feeling in the minds of the settlers. They are apt to regard such visits as dangerous to their peace and security, and acting upon their suspicions, drive the Indians away by force if necessary. From such collisions come long devastating Indian wars. The people of Idaho have suffered so much from the cruelty, hatred and treachery of the Indians, that it is not surprising they have little faith in the professions of friendship made by their old enemies.

Long prior to the time when the Fort Hall Reservation was set aside for the Bannock Indians there were numerous settlers upon portions of the territory selected, who still remain within its boundaries. This fact may cause trouble, and I would suggest that those settlers be paid for their improvements, and removed, or a stipulation made with the Indians by which that portion of the reservation settled upon by whites might be ceded to the government. The latter would be the best course, as the reservation, originally intended for the Bannock and Shoshone tribes, has never been occupied by the former, and contains a much larger area than is needed for the one tribe. I think the Indians would readily consent, upon reasonable terms, to the restoration of a large portion of the Fort Hall Reservation to the public domain.

The majority of the Bannock Indians west of the Rocky Mountains are under Tendog, and have a reservation in Lemhi Valley. They have always refused to go upon the Fort Hall Reservation, and spend most of their time hunting east of the Rocky Mountains with other friendly tribes. It is hardly possible for them to make a living on their reservation in Lemhi Valley, and I am informed they would gladly consent to a transfer to the reservation of a friendly tribe east of the Rocky Mountains.

The Nez Percé war depleted the ranks of that tribe, happily eliminating the nomadic portion, and instilling into the minds of the remainder a disposition to remain at home and endeavor to earn a living by farming and pasturage. Many of these Indians are now thrifty farmers, and are doing far better than when their main dependence was in hunting and fishing. It is my opinion that the members of this tribe could be prevailed upon without difficulty to select land in severalty. If this were done, a large portion of their reservation could be restored to the public domain. The Nez Percé Reservation embraces a large area of very valuable agricultural land that ought to be opened up to settlement. The policy of placing the Indians upon the same footing as white men, with respect to the right to enter and own land, is a wise

one, as tending towards their civilization, and the opportunity now presented of proving the wisdom of that policy should not be neglected.

Recently trouble has been apprehended with the small tribe known as the Shoshone or Duck Valley Indians, who live on the line between this Territory and Nevada. Prior to the settlement of the Bruneau Valley these Indians spent the winters there, and claim the right to do so now. The settlers have secured title to their lands from the government, and of course the Indians can have no valid claim to the lands. The Indians have recently appeared in the Bruneau Valley, causing much apprehension in the minds of the settlers, who fear trouble with them. Colonel Parnell, in command at Fort Boise, has orders to investigate the affair, and the Indians will, no doubt, be induced, without a conflict, to return to their own grounds. They should, however, be compelled to remain upon their reservation. If they go again into the Bruneau Valley, asserting a right to the land, the settlers may not be as patient and merciful as they have been in the past.

Upon the whole it may be said that the people have enjoyed a year of unusual peace and tranquillity with the Indian tribes of the Territory.

TIMBER.

The forest areas of the Territory have been variously estimated at from 8,000,000 to 10,000,000 acres. The latter estimate is probably more nearly correct than the former. There are considerable bodies of timber along the rivers and smaller streams, but the great forests are in the mountains. These consist largely of pine, fir, and cedar.

In order to obtain fuel and timber for domestic purposes, a majority of the citizens of Idaho are compelled to constantly violate the provisions of the act of June 3, 1878. It is not possible for each individual citizen to go into the mountains and procure his own lumber and fuel; nor is it possible for each person to appoint an agent to do this for him. The timber is found in the most inaccessible mountain ranges, to reach which and bring it out necessitates the building of wagon-roads, often at considerable cost.

The people of Idaho obtain their supply of fuel and lumber from men who engage in the business of cutting wood and manufacturing lumber. Saw-mills have been erected at various points, and it must be admitted that the owners of these mills do not, in all instances, insist upon having instruments in writing, designating such owners as agents of the parties to whom they sell a bill of lumber or load of fuel.

The law of 1878 should be amended so as to provide for the survey and sale of the timber on the public lands.

I would suggest that only alternate sections be sold, every other section being reserved by the government, and a heavy penalty attached for cutting or destroying the timber on such sections.

In this way the wants of the people could be easily supplied, and an interest created that would prevent the wanton destruction of timber, which the present law does not do.

POPULATION.

The inland and isolated situation, and the want of easy communication to its borders, have prevented a rapid increase of population in the Territory. The building of the Utah and Northern Railway through Eastern Idaho has had the effect to largely increase the population of that section, and has added greatly to its prosperity.

By the census of 1870, the population of Idaho was given as 20,588. The census of 1880 gives the Territory a population of nearly 40,000 (including Indians)—an increase of nearly 100 per cent. in ten years. Judging from the present outlook, it is not unreasonable to expect that, before the end of the decade upon which we have just entered, Idaho will have a population sufficient to entitle it to admission into the sisterhood of States.

RAILROADS.

There is at present but one railroad in the Territory, the Utah and Northern—a very lively protégé of the Union Pacific Railway Company. The road is a narrow-gauge, but a first-class one in every respect. For a new line the road-bed is in splendid condition, and there is no railroad in the country, unless it is the parent line, excelling it in equipment, rolling stock, station-houses, &c. The Pullman sleepers run upon this road are models of beauty, elegance, and comfort.

Other lines have been projected to various points in the Territory, the most important of which is the proposed line from Ogden, Utah, to some point on the Pacific coast in the State of Oregon. The engineers of the Union Pacific Railway Company are now engaged in making a working survey for the purpose of demonstrating the practicability of the proposed route. This line, if built, will pass through or near Boise City, the capital of Idaho, and will not only open up an immense region to settlement and traffic, but will also bring New York City several hundred miles nearer Yokohama than the present route.

STAGE LINES.

The Utah, Idaho and Oregon Stage Company run daily stages from Boise City, Idaho, to Kelton and Winnemucca, on the Central Pacific Railroad, connecting at those points with through trains east and west. The same company runs a daily line from Boise City to Walla Walla, the Dalles, and other points in Oregon and Washington Territory. The coaches, stock, and "home stations" of the company are excellent, and every attention is paid by its agents and employés to the comfort of passengers.

There is also a first-class stage line from Blackfoot, on the Utah and Northern, into the Wood River country, connecting with a line from Rocky Bar to Boise City. It is not possible to mention all the stage lines, but, as most of the travel in the Territory is by stages, good lines have been established wherever there is necessity for them.

DESERT LANDS.

As has been elsewhere stated in this report, at least one-half of the land in Idaho suitable for agriculture cannot be made available in its present state. There are large tracts lying along the Snake River which can be reclaimed by means of canals taken from that stream. The expense attending an undertaking of that nature is too considerable to admit or insure of its being done by individuals.

The amount of land one person may enter under existing laws is insufficient to induce investments in irrigation schemes on a large scale. Nor can it be expected that an enterprise which will not pay one man to undertake alone will prove more attractive to a number. The amount of land a company composed of ten or twelve persons could secure under present laws would not excite the envy of the most rampant communist.

The desert-land act should be amended so as to permit the disposal of this class of lands in unlimited quantities, at a small price, to individuals or corporations who will pledge themselves to the building of canals for their reclamation. Proper restrictions should be made prohibiting the withdrawal of the lands from the market, and the maximum price at which they might be sold should also be fixed. These features, if incorporated in the act, would preclude the possibility of monopolies growing out of the sale of large tracts to one person or company. A much more simple method of bringing these lands into market would be for Congress to make the necessary appropriations for building canals. The lands could then be disposed of to actual settlers under existing laws. If these lands were situated in any one of the States, Congress could easily be prevailed upon to appropriate millions for their reclamation.

I very earnestly suggest that some plan, other than the doubtful expedient of artesian wells, be early adopted for reclaiming and bringing into market the desert lands of the West.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

The total number of school children in the Territory between the ages of five and twenty-one years is about six thousand. The annual revenue for school purposes raised by taxes, fines, &c., in the several counties, is about \$25,000.

Under the laws of the Territory each county has the exclusive benefit of its own educational resources and receives no aid from the Territory. The only source of Territorial revenue available for school purposes is the money which might come from escheated estates, which is too small to enter as an item in the account.

The 16th and 36th sections in each township given for school purposes, under the general laws of the United States, are unavailable for the Territories, as by these laws the proceeds of such lands were set apart as an irreducible fund to be kept until the Territory becomes a State. The duty of providing for schools in the Territories has often been urged upon Congress, and bills containing provisions looking to this end have been introduced from time to time, but as yet with no tangible result. As a matter of justice, Congress should give to the Territories portions of the public lands other than the 16th and 36th sections, which are unavailable, or should make appropriations of money for the purpose.

Under present circumstances there is not a county in the Territory that can raise by taxation a sum sufficient to keep up the public schools during the year, and in some of the counties the money from this source is totally inadequate even for a few months in each year.

All the money raised for school purposes is strictly and economically applied to the maintenance of schools in accordance with the laws, no portion of it being allowed to be paid either to the Territorial or county superintendents.

The Territorial controller is *ex officio* superintendent of public instruction, but for this service he is paid nothing, and his sources of information with regard to the condition of the public schools are restricted to the reports of the county auditors, which are generally meager and unsatisfactory, for the reason that these officers all act, so far as schools are concerned, in an *ex officio* capacity, and without pay for this branch of their service. With an appropriation of Congress these defects in the present system could be cured, and, besides promoting the cause of education in the Territories, provision could be made for the collection

of statistics and information concerning schools, a want which at present it is impossible to meet.

CONCLUSION.

In drawing this report to a close I am painfully aware of its imperfections; still, enough has been stated to show that the affairs of the Territory are in a highly satisfactory condition. Good health has prevailed during the year; agriculture, stock-raising, and mining have prospered, and all are in a more flourishing condition to-day than ever before. In no material interest has there been any retrograde movement in the Territory.

It is gratifying to note improvement in the public schools. The increased interest manifested by the people in the schools is a sure indication that they are recognized as important factors in building up a community of law-abiding, liberty-loving, intelligent citizens.

The administration of justice has been good, and the interest of the government and Territory cared for with economy and fidelity.

Crime is not more common than in the older communities of the East, and with one exception, infractions of the law meet with as sure and speedy punishment. The one exception noted is the utter failure, or inability, of the officers of the law in two counties of the Territory to punish violations of the anti-polygamy law passed by Congress in 1862. Bear Lake County is populated almost exclusively by Mormons, and in Oneida County this sect claims to have a majority. I am informed that in those counties many persons are living in open, undisguised violation of the anti-polygamy law, and that polygamous marriages are by no means infrequent. Unless it be the intention of Congress to hand over to priestly domination the Territories of Arizona, Idaho, Wyoming, and Utah, with perhaps one or two of the States of the Pacific slope, and permit the setting up in those Territories and States of a system that prevails nowhere else in the civilized world, then the law of 1862 should be amended so as to make it effectual; otherwise, it should be repealed, and full license given this "peculiar people" to practice their barn-yard system. A residence of some years in Utah has convinced me that kindness and leniency are wasted in dealing with this question, and that the practices in the Territories under the guise of religion which disgrace us as a nation can be eliminated only by adopting the most radical and rigorous measures.

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